

receiving a request from a first software application to access the document file;
determining whether the first software application permits coauthoring;
permitting write-access to the document file if the first software application permits coauthoring;
setting a second lock for the document file if the first software application permits coauthoring, the second lock permitting additional software applications that support coauthoring to have write-access to the document file; and
denying write-access to the document file if the first software application does not permit coauthoring.

19. The method of claim **18**, further comprising:
receiving a request for exclusive access to the document file from a second software application that supports coauthoring; and
denying the request for exclusive access if the first lock is set.

20. The method of claim **18**, further comprising:
receiving a request for exclusive access to the document file from a second software application that does not support coauthoring; and
denying the request for exclusive access if the first lock is set.

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